

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination of the application.

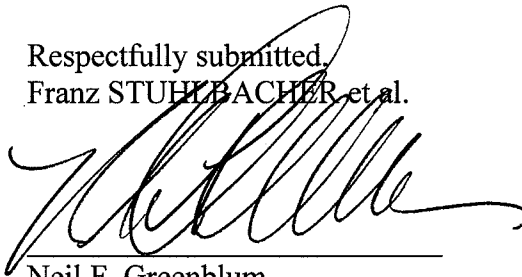
Applicant notes that claims have been amended strictly to ensure closer compliance with U.S. patent practice and not for a reason related to patentability or for a reason related to distinguishing the invention over any known prior art reference. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no estoppel should apply to any feature recited in any of the so amended claims.

Additionally, the specification and abstract have been amended to ensure closer compliance with U.S. patent practice, and the drawings have been amended to clarify reference characters "22" and "23" used therein. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims, specification, abstract, and drawings do not introduce new matter.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessary for the consideration of this preliminary amendment to deposit account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Franz STUHLBACHER et al.



Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394

Robert W. Mueller
Reg. No. 35,043

April 23, 2007
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191